

May 3, 2006

TO: **HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE** (family and children services)

FROM: **FAMILIES UNITED FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY** (Grand Rapids)
Bishop Walter C. Durham, 622 Thomas Street, SE, Grand Rapids, MI., 49503
(616) 245-9875

CITIZENS FOR PARENTAL RIGHTS (Allegan County)
Bernard Nyhof, P. O. Box 75, Burnips, MI., 49314
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April 26, 2005 the Department of Human Services and Family Advocacy reported to your committee
REGARDING - **"FORENSIC INTERVIEWING PROTOCOL"**

The following cases were **not given the benefit of this protocol**. (as many cases are not)

Kent County Cases: # 05 - 51604 - NA - 097256303
 # 05 - 51605 - NA - 097256304
 # 05 - 51606 - NA - 097256305
 # 05 - 51607 - NA - 097256306
 # 05 - 51608 - NA - 097256307
 # 05 - 51609 - NA - 097256308
 # 05 - 51610 - NA - 097256309
 # 05 - 51611 - NA - 097256310
 # 05 - 51612 - NA - 097256311
 # 05 - 51613 - NA - 097256312
 # 05 - 51614 - NA - 097256313
 # 05 - 51615 - NA - 097256314

These were the case numbers
the **12 adopted children** of:
Jerome and Beryl Richards
4620 Burton Street, SE
Kentwood, Michigan, 49546

Telephone: (616) 977-1810

FACT: PARENTS WERE **NOT NOTIFIED** THAT THEIR CHILDREN WERE TO BE INTERVIEWED.

FACT: CHILDREN WERE INTERVIEWED IN THEIR SCHOOL.

FACT: SCHOOL HAD A LETTER ON FILE STATING THAT THEIR CHILDREN COULD NOT BE INTERVIEWED.

FACT: BERYL RICHARDS, THE CHILDREN'S MOTHER WAS DOING VOLUNTEER WORK IN THE SCHOOL DURING THE TIME OF THE INTERVIEWING. MOTHER WAS NOT TOLD THAT THE INTERVIEWS WERE TAKING PLACE AS SHE WAS VOLUNTEERING.

FACT: **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED - THE FAMILY HAS BEEN DESTROYED!**

There are many good rules and laws to protect families and children. Who is watching to make certain these rules and laws are adhered to?

OUR CONSTITUTION STATES THAT PARENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO RAISE THEIR FAMILIES AS THEY SEE FIT. THE CONSTITUTION ALSO STATES THAT EVERY STATE LEGISLATOR IS BOUND TO SUPPORT THIS CONSTITUTION.

Resources For Families

Frontlines



COURTESY D.A. BLODGETT

Grand Rapids Couple Honored

Lots of people adopt. Some, like Jerome and Beryl Richards, adopt a lot of kids. That is why the Michigan Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (MFAPA) honored the Richards.

MFAPA named the couple — who over the years have added 13 adoptive children to their birth children — Adoptive Parents of the

Year because of their commitment to keeping children together. Beryl and Jerome Richards swelled their already large family by adopting groups of three and six siblings along with four other children. Andrea Skiles, coordinator of special needs adoption at D.A. Blodgett, said the agency was, "Very, very proud" of the Richards' award.

